Government of the District of Columbia

District Department of the Environment Office of the Director District of Columbia Department of Health
Office of the Director



September 24, 2008

Ms. Muriel Bowser Councilmember, Ward 4 Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 406 Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chillum Gas Site, Administrative Order Issued to Chevron, USA, (August 2008).

Dear Councilmember Bowser:

We are in receipt of your letter to us dated September 4, 2008. We are writing to thank you for the invitation to participate in the October 2nd Riggs Park Community Meeting. However, we regret to inform you that we will not be able to attend this meeting.

As you know, the residents of Riggs Park will be expecting to hear a decision by the District at this meeting, as to whether the District has concluded that the EPA remedy selected for the site is adequate. However, the District will not be ready to report any of its findings, results, or decisions to the residents of Riggs Park by October 2nd. SS Papadopoulos & Associates (SSP&A) (our contractor) will be concluding its sampling at the end of this month. Accordingly, SSP&A has not yet obtained the analytical results of those samples from the lab. That means, additionally, that the District has not yet analyzed the data, interpreted the data, consulted with its toxicologist, consulted with ATSDR, or compiled the record upon which to make its remedy selection decision. Because there are these several steps which need occur before the District is able to reach its own conclusion as to the appropriate remedy for the community, we believe it would be most constructive and valuable if we attended a Riggs Park Community Meeting at a later date, when the District has a decision to announce. We hope you will renew this invitation at a later date, when the District is prepared to share its results and decision with the residents of Riggs Park.

We would also like to take this opportunity to emphasize that our agencies take great interest in this site, and, as such, our staff will continue to attend the Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings at Riggs Park. However, we believe it might be a good idea if we limited our participation in the monthly Riggs Park Community Meetings to those instances when you have a specific question for us,

and for which you would like an answer. We will be pleased to let you know when the District will be in a position to announce its decision to the community. We will also, at that time, contact you to request the opportunity to make a presentation to you and the community.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with your office on this matter to resolve it as promptly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional assistance on this matter, while we await the final sampling results.

Sincerely,

George S. Hawkins

Director

District Department of the Environment

Pierre N.D. Vigilance, MD, MPH

Director

District Department of Health